

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0016
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 00894

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, MARR, SO, IT, NI
SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA: POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL CON-
SIDERATION

1. WE HAVE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA ABOUT POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE HORN. AS GARBA INFORMED THE SECRETARY, NIGERIANS ARE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT SC MEETING UNTIL THEY HAVE EXHAUSTED POSSIBILITIES UNDER OAU GOOD OFFICE COMMITTEE WHICH SCHEDULED TO MEET IN LAGOS ON MARCH 16. HOWEVER, NIGERIA WOULD CONSIDER URGENT ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IF LAGOS MEETING POSTPONED OR MEETING NECESSARY TO AVOID LARGE SCALE SLAUGHTER.

2. GARBA CALLED AMBASSADOR MCHENRY TODAY TO SAY THAT HE HAD CONSULTED OBASANJO WHO SUPPORTED GARBA'S INITIAL REACTION. GARBA ALSO SAID THAT HE AND NIGERIAN PERM REP

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HARRIMAN HAD CONSULTED WITH GOOD OFFICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND WITH ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI PERM REPS ALL OF WHOM OPPOSED A CONSIDERATION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THIS TIME.

3. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY CONFIRMED THAT GARBA'S FINDINGS SEEMED TO PARALLEL OUR OWN. WE WERE NOT SURE OF THE

SITUATION ON THE BATTLEGROUND IN THE OGADEN BUT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.

4. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION TROYANOVSKY OF USSR QUERIED MCHENRY ON POSSIBLE U.S. SUPPORT FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, NOTING THAT MOST AFRICANS OPPOSED A MEETING AT THIS TIME. TROYANOVSKY ADDED THAT IF ETHIOPIA CROSSED INTO SOMALIA A CASE MIGHT BE MADE FOR OUTSIDE OBSERVERS, BUT SHORT OF THAT HE QUESTIONED THE EQUITY OF PROPOSALS FOR OBSERVERS.

5. MCHENRY TOOK NOTE OF TROYANOVSKY'S COMMENTS AND STATED THAT IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF EQUITY BUT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SHOULD THE SITUATION SO MERIT.

6. SYG WALDHEIM RAISED HORN WITH MCHENRY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF TODAY'S SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON RHODESIA. WALDHEIM HAD LITTLE TO ADD IN RECOUNTING HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GARBA. WE AGREED TO STAY IN TOUCH. YOUNG

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